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TRAVEL PRINTOUT

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U.S. Travel Data Center

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1986 Summer Vacation Travel increases 4 percent

Summer vacation travel in 1986 increased 4 percent over 1985 levels,, and Americans covered nearly 260 billion miles in the process, according to the latest results of the US Travel Data Center's National Travel Survey.

June, July and August proved, as the Data Center predicted last spring, to be "the best summer for the travel industry since 1981"; however, the 285 million vacation person-trips recorded by the monthly telephone survey fell slightly short of the 5 percent increase forecast by the Data Center for the period. (A person-trip is measured each time anyone goes 100 miles or more away from home.)

The average duration of vacation trips rose slightly to 6.2 nights, and total nights away from home on summer vacation match the Data Center's projected 4 percent increase. The average distance declined from 970 round-trip miles in 1985 to 950 this year.

Almost 83 percent of vacationers traveled by auto/truck/ RV, compared with 80 percent in 1985, and 15 percent traveled by airplane, compared with 16 percent the previous year. Of all vacationers, about 42 percent stayed in hotels and another 42 percent stayed with friends and relatives, almost unchanged from year-earlier figures.

The South Atlantic/East South Central regions attracted the greatest share of visitors, 31 percent, although the West North Central-West South Central regions showed the greatest increase in visitors.##

Program Advisory Council Reviews 1987 Projects

At its recent annual meeting in New York, the US Travel Data Center's Program Advisory Council recommended that monthly National Travel Survey data be cumulated and reported seasonally rather than quarterly, concluding that seasonal totals will be more useful to the industry.

Reports on the fall season would contain data on September, October, and November; winter would cover December, January, and February; and spring would comprise data on March, April, and May.

The council, comprised of representatives from each organization maintaining a full membership in the Data Center, reviews and recommends new projects for the coming year.

"While we can continue to provide some quarterly totals, our members may have difficulty adjusting to this new report schedule," said Data Center Director Douglas Frechtling.

"We need their comments so we can judge whether to make this change."

The National Travel Survey, the Travel Outlook Forum, and the annual state economic impact estimates received the highest council ratings. But the council called for more timely release of these and other reports.

Moreover, the council suggested changing the name of the monthly newsletter, Travel Printout, to give it a more up-to-date image.

Comments from Data Center members and others about the proposed changes should be directed to Ida Simmons, manager of communications, US Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 or call 202/293-1040. ##

Travel Prices Rise in September

A September jump in gasoline prices contributed to a 0.2 percent increase in travel prices according to the Travel Price Index (TPI) compiled monthly by TIA'S research affiliate, the US Travel Data Center.

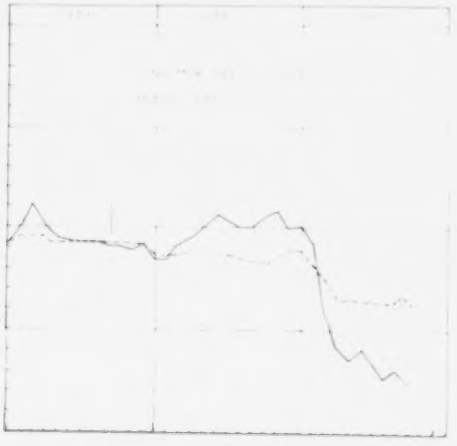
For comparison, overall consumer goods and services costs, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose 0.5 percent in September.

The TPI, which measures changes in the seasonally unadjusted prices of lodging, food, transportation and other goods and services purchased by Americans traveling away from home in the United States, climbed to 380.8 (1967=100) in September.

Gasoline prices advanced 2.2 percent in September, following a 5.2 percent decline the previous month. The cost of incidentals rose 1.0 percent while the cost of entertainment services gained 0.7 percent.

Lodging prices fell 1.0 percent in September, more than any other TPI component. Intercity bus and train fares declined 0.7 and 0.4 percent respectively.

Travel prices are still 1.8 percent lower than they were twelve months ago, stemming from a 28.2 percent plunge in gasoline prices. This compares to a 1.8 percent increase in the CPI since September 1985. ##



Falling Gasoline Prices Dampen Travel Price Index

Monthly and Annual Rates of Change in the Travel Price Index and Components
September 1986

TPI Component	Monthly Percent Change August 1986 to September 1986	Annual Percent Change September 1985 to September 1986
Transportation	0.8	-9.9
Airline Fares	0.2	2.9
Intercity Bus Fares	- 0.7	9.0
Intercity Train Fares	- 0.4	7.3
Taxicab Fares	0.1	3.2
Gasoline	2.2	-28.2
Lodging	- 1.0	3.5
Food Away From Home	0.4	3.8
Entertainment Services	0.7	5.8
Incidentals	1.0	1.2
TRAVEL PRICE INDEX	0.2	- 1.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	0.5	1.8

Source: US Travel Data Center and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Federal Government Revises Classifications of Travel Industry Businesses

After reviewing recommendations by the US Travel Data Center, Travel Industry Association of America, and other industry organizations, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system governing collection and analysis of information about the travel industry.

The new revisions will yield separate information about certificated and non-certificated air carriers, travel agencies, tour operators, passenger travel by water, car rental, and recreational vehicle dealers.

Data Center Director Doug Frechtling cautioned that these changes are but the first step to more comprehensive coverage of the travel industry in Federal data collection programs. The next step is actual collection of information on these new categories.

The Data Center has sent recommendations to the U.S. Bureau of the Census on additional data collection projects to cover the new industry categories as well as other, under-researched sectors.

The complete set of SIC revisions will be published early next spring in Standard Industrial Classification Manual 1987 by the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. Orders for publication PB 867-100-012 received by December 31, 1986, will cost $24; in 1987, the cost rises to $30.##

Second Quarter Travel Falls Slightly in 1986

Travel in second quarter 1986 fell less than one percent from levels recorded one year earlier according to US Travel Data Center's 1986 National Travel Survey Second Quarter Report which will be released in December 1986.

The monthly telephone survey reported Americans took 284 million person-trips in April, May and June. (A person-trip is measured when anyone goes 100 miles or more away from home.)

The 1986 National Travel Survey Second Quarter Report is being sent to Data Center members and is available to others for $75 prepaid from the US Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036.##

Visitor Volume at National Parks

Region	AUG 1986 visits*	Change from AUG 1985 (percent)	Percent change 1986/1985 Year-to-Date
NEW ENGLAND	2,289,879	-2.8	0.6
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	4,605,134	19.0	13.6
SOUTH EAST	15,893,803	7.7	7.8
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	968,150	3.7	-1.8
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	2,025,303	10.1	3.6
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	1,133,163	-5.5	3.2
MOUNTAIN	6,313,524	7.4	8.5
PACIFIC	7,529,773	23.9	14.2
TOTAL	40,758,729	10.4	8.6

* adjusted for differences in reporting units

The U.S. Travel Data Center is an affiliate of the Travel Industry Association of America

States comprising the Census regions:

NEW ENGLAND: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. MIDDLE ATLANTIC: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. SOUTH EAST: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. EAST NORTH CENTRAL: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin. WEST NORTH CENTRAL: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota. WEST SOUTH CENTRAL: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. MOUNTAIN: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming. PACIFIC: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

Current Travel Indicators

CURRENT TRAVEL INDICATORS

	Current Month	Current Value	Percent Change From Previous Month	Percent Change From Year-ago Month	Percent Change Year-to-date 1986/85
Establishment receipts or retail sales					
Hotels, motels and other lodging places(1)	Aug	$ 3,938 million	0.6	5.1	6.1
Eating and drinking places(2)	Aug	$11,935 million	1.1	9.6	7.0
Gasoline service stations(2)	Aug	6,802 million	-2.1	-20.0	-11.5
Commercial lodging demand					
Hotel/motel occupancy rate(3)	Aug	66.1 percent	-0.7	1.6	0.6
Real demand for commercial lodging(4)	Aug	59.7 million	3.3	8.0	3.9
Airline passenger traffic(5)					
Domestic revenue passenger-miles	Aug	25.3 billion	7.0	17.3	12.9
International revenue passenger-miles	Aug	7.3 billion	11.7	0.2	-9.5
Highway traffic volume(6)					
Rural arterial vehicle-miles	Aug	47.6 billion	2.8	5.5	5.7
Rail passenger traffic(7)					
Amtrak passenger-miles	Aug	542.8 million	2.1	-3.1	0.5
Travel Price Index(8)	Aug	380.1	.1	-2.1	0.4
U.S. resident travel(9)					
Total person-trips	Jul	137.8 million	21.8	2.9	2.4
Vacation person-trips	Jul	95.5 million	18.2	9.9	0.7
Total person-nights	Jul	826.8 million	32.9	2.9	0.8
Vacation person-nights	Jul	630.3 million	27.9	11.6	2.5
Public use of national parks(10)					
Visits	Aug	41,035,656	-5.3	7.0	6.8
Overnight stays	Aug	3,334,008	6.3	3.7	0.6
Foreign arrivals in U.S.(11)					
From overseas	Aug	1,051,924	-3.3	23.5	15.7
From Canada	Aug	1,663,789	14.5	4.5	0.5
From Mexico	Aug	92,777	-13.6	-8.6	N/A
U.S. citizen departures(11)					
To overseas	Aug	1,431,312	-4.8	-5.1	-7.0
To Canada	Aug	2,926,429	6.1	16.3	16.7
Domestic demand for motor gasoline(12)					
Barrels per day	Aug	7,434 thousand	-1.1	2.7	2.3

N/A = not available

(1) Source: Smith Travel Research, seasonally unadjusted. (2) Preliminary: adjusted for seasonal variation and trading day differences. Source: Bureau of the Census. (3) Source: Smith Travel Research, seasonally adjusted. (4) Source: Smith Travel Research, unadjusted room nights sold. (5) Preliminary: U.S. scheduled service air carriers. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation. (6) Source: Federal Highway Administration. (7) Source: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). (8) Source: US Travel Data Center and Bureau of Labor Statistics. (9) Source: US Travel Data Center. (10) Preliminary; unadjusted for differences in reporting units. Source: National Park Service. (11) Source: Statistics Canada and U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration. Mexican data reflect I94 arrivals only. (12) Source: Statistics Canada and Nettleton Research Center. (13) Preliminary; Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

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